

Big Bend

Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



February 14-20, 2016

Sunday, February 14

3:00 PM Discovery Hike – “Beautiful Boquillas” Join Ranger J. Jurado for a hike into Boquillas Canyon to talk about geology, botany, wildlife, human history, and other surprises we might find along the way! Meet at the Boquillas Canyon Trailhead. Bring a hat, water, and hiking shoes. 1 mile round-trip. 1 hour.

7:30 PM Evening Program – “Big Cats in Big Bend” Solitary and elusive, mountain lions have incited mystery, myth, and the imagination. Although often feared by people, these cats play an important role in the health of Big Bend’s ecology. Join Ranger J. Woerner to learn about these powerfully misunderstood creatures and what makes them so special. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

Monday, February 15

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Our Most Precious Resource” Water brings life to the desert. Join Ranger C. Rinas to learn more about this precious but limited resource. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail, across from Campsite 18. Water and sun protection recommended. 3/4 mile walk. 1 hour.

Tuesday, February 16

3:00 PM Program – “Scorpions” How is a scorpion like an alligator? What do they have in common with seals? Join Ranger K. Eckert to learn more about scorpions, common misconceptions, and the unusual similarities they have to other species. Meet on the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

Wednesday, February 17

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Soap from Yucca & More!” If you have the knowledge just about everything you need can be obtained from plants. Join Ranger C. Rinas on this easy 0.5 mile walk to learn about some of the traditional uses of plants. Bring water and sun protection. Meet at the Dugout Wells picnic area. 1/3 mile walk. 45 minutes.

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Birds Do Crazy Things” Observe Texas specialty birds and explore some of their unique behaviors. Stroll Rio Grande Village area (approx. 1 mile). Meet Volunteers J. and S. Ewan at Rio Grande Store parking lot. Please bring water and binoculars if you have them. 1 hour.

Thursday, February 18

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “The Birth of the CCC” There was a cry that came from our country in the 1930’s; a cry of hunger, poverty, and lack of work. Franklin D. Roosevelt heard this cry and strove to do something about it, creating the Civilian Conservation Corp. Join Ranger K. Eckert to learn more about the creation of the CCC, and see their lasting handiwork here in Big Bend National Park. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. 1/3 mile walk. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.

9:30 AM Caravan – “Geology 101” – Let’s make some sense of how this place came to be. Join Volunteer P. Spruell for a driving tour from Sotol Vista to Goat Mountain to Tuff canyon (three stops – eleven to twelve total miles) and cram 300 million years of geologic history into two hours. Parking is limited at the last two stops and carpooling is encouraged. Meet at the Sotol Vista Overlook. 2 hours.

Friday, February 19

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Hot Springs, a History” From prehistoric camp to healing resort, the hot springs on the Rio Grande have been a focal point for communities throughout history. The art and homes they left behind reveal their stories. Join Ranger J. Woerner to learn more about the history of the Hot Springs. Meet at the Hot Springs store (50 yards from the parking lot). Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1 mile. 1 hour.

7:30 PM Evening Program – “Band on the Run” Who were the nomadic Plains Indians that were amazing equestrians, savvy traders, but also marauders and thieves? Join Ranger K. Eckert to learn more about the Comanche and their way of life, with story telling that will engage the senses. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

7:30 PM Evening Program – “Some Endangered Evening” Is it dark where you live? Can you see as many stars as you once could? A dark night sky is an important factor in the lives of living creatures planet-wide, a way for humans to connect to days past, when artificial light was non-existent. Join Ranger B. Smith for an evening about evenings. A telescope will be set up to view a celestial object. Meet at the Rio Grande Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Saturday, February 20

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Life at the Windmill” The desert may seem to be an impossible place to live but a significant number of living things thrive in this extreme environment. Join Ranger B. Smith for an hour of discovery and exploration into the secret, and not so secret, stories of life at the windmill. Meet at Dugout Wells, six miles south of Panther Junction Visitor Center. Bring water and a hat. ¼ mile. 1 hour.

7:30 PM Evening Program – “Big Cats in Big Bend” Solitary and elusive, mountain lions have incited mystery, myth, and the imagination. Although often feared by people, these cats play an important role in the health of Big Bend’s ecology. Join Ranger J. Woerner to learn about these powerfully misunderstood creatures and what makes them so special. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 45 minutes.